

# UNITED NATIONS: ACHIEVEMENTS & FAILURES

## Outline:

### I. Introduction

Although United Nations is striving hard to maintain peace and stability across the world, it has failed to a ~~greater~~<sup>smaller</sup> extent in ensuring global peace. However, by taking stringent remedial measures reforming the United Nations can be a final cog in the machine.

### II. The contemporary status of the United Nations across the world

### III. Factors indicating the achievements of the United Nations

1. The strife of UN to ensure human rights

- i- UNICEF: working for the betterment of the children
- ii- Insurance of women rights

2. UN listens to the grievances of the world nations

- i- The resolution of the territorial issues

3. Endeavors of UN in tackling Climate crisis

- i- The efforts of UNEP
- ii- Conference of Parties

4. Financial assistance of the nations amid natural catastrophes

- i- UN conference 2023: Pakistan's post-floods financial assistance of \$ 10 billion

5. The working of UN bodies to meet the socio-economic issues of the nations at grass-root levels

- i- UNESCO
- ii- FAO

6. Striving for the women empowerment

- i- Ensurance of gender equality



## IV. Failures of the United Nations

1. The failure of UN in tackling major lagging issues of the world

i- The Kashmir issue

ii- Palestine issue

2. Unbridled nuclearization of the world

i- The failed NPT

ii- Ineffective PTBT

3. Unable to prevent escalations between Russia and Ukraine

i- Crimean intervention 2014

ii- Invasion of Ukraine 2022

4. The UN has failed in tackling refugee crisis

i- Rohingya Muslim Refugee crisis

ii- Afghan Refugee crisis

5. The inefficiency of UN to nip fascist governments in the bud

i- Fascist Modi regime in India

6. Failed to prevent people from draconian laws of the states
- i- Citizenship Amendment Bill of India

## V. How to strengthen UN through reforms to get maximum out of it for the greater good?

1. Enhancing the funding of UN for its effective operations
2. The structural reformation of UN
3. Bound the signatories of UN charter to abide by it in true letter and spirit

## VI. Conclusion



From ensuring human rights to the failure in handling major issues of the nations, from fighting climate crisis to getting failed in managing refugee crisis, from financial assistance of the nations to the unbridled nuclearization of the world, United Nations is striving hard to cope with the emerging challenges of the 21st century. Undoubtedly, institutions meet several sort of dynamics of their times so as the United Nations does. Consequently, sometimes institutions get succeed in facing such issues or sometimes they do not make it. However, United Nations has witnessed one of its turbulent decade in its modern history in the form of pandemic, climate catastrophe, the fluctuating waves of terrorism and the emerging threat of looming food crisis. Lamentably, it invokes a number of questions in the minds of analysts. Whether or not the UN will ever be succeed while facing such sort of modern challenges? Will it make its comeback

in the forthcoming decades? Will UN dive deep into ~~its~~ its failures? Although United Nations is striving hard to maintain peace and stability across the world, it has failed to a smaller extent in ensuring global peace. However, by taking stringent remedial measures reforming the UN can be a final cog in the machine.

Before moving forward, it is pertinent to elaborate the contemporary status of the United Nations. The current status of UN is not that bleak. The organization is giving its best in the global affairs. Moreover, it is playing its vital role in tackling the issues and conflicts of the states. For an illustration, the case of Kulbushan Jadar, a spy, of India is in point. Pakistan and India put his case in International Court of Justice (ICJ), an organ of the UN, for resolving this issue. It is because of the illegal activities and espionage of Jadar in the Balochistan province of which



Pakistan was assured. However, Indian government refused and declared the allegations of Pakistan as baseless and malicious. Resultantly, the case was put forward in the international court. In this way, United Nations is actively resolving the issues amongst the nation-states to the world safer and peaceful, entirely.

Likewise, the preceding paragraphs will light upon the achievements of the United Nations that how it has strived to cater the peace of the world in its true spirit.

The first and foremost achievement of the UN could be the ensurance of human rights at the grass-root levels. One of the UN bodies, United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is burning midnight oil to protect the rights of children across the world regardless the first world or the third world.

UNICEF is working for the welfare of children particularly in the domains of education and health of the children.

Similarly, the United Nations contribution in the protection of women rights is praiseworthy. UN is the staunch protector of women rights. It endeavours to ensure the rights of women in almost every domain of life.

Hence, it is manifested that the United Nations is turbulent in protecting and ensuring human rights across the world.

Subsequently, another achievement of United Nations is that it has become a dynamic platform for the world nations to get their grievances addressed in a span of time. In the changing winds of the global affairs, the nation-states come up with new and challenging issues. Regardless of such issues, typical clashes amongst the nations like that of border issues are common. Most of the nations have



get their border issues resolved like that of the Wachen Corridor which has declared as a buffer zone. However, a number of border or territorial issues are yet to be resolved. Therefore, United Nations is, certainly, its crucial role in resolving such sort of issues either they could be territorial or border issues.

Apart from the resolution of border or territorial issues, UN is endeavoring to fight climate catastrophe. Without an iota of doubt, the struggle of United Nations is manifested worldwide. There are a number of UN bodies and other organizations working together to cope with climate crisis. For example, the efforts of United Nations <sup>Environment</sup> Development Programme are case in point. UNEP has played a major role in tackling the environment and climate with sustainable approach. Every year United Nations Environment Programme allocates a huge budget for the sustainable

environment across the world. It allocates around \$10.6 billion for the developing countries alone, according to The Project Syndicate. It helps the nations in making climate resilient infrastructure and spending in green technology. Moreover, The Conference of Parties (COPs) is being conducted every year to gauge the greenhouse gases (GHG) to limit the global temperature upto  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  by the end of this century. For an illustration, COP 27 is in the limelight today. It constitutes the allocation of funds for the climate-hit countries. In the same way, Pakistan is being financially assisted for 'loss and damage' in the post-flood scenario. Hence, the UN is eager to cope with climate change, globally.

Besides, United Nations is actively supporting the nations financially amid natural disasters and as well as post-disaster management. It conducts special conferences apart from COPs and general scheduled



meetings. For example, in the second week of January 2023, UN called a conference in Geneva to help Pakistan meeting post-flood calamities.

Through this conference, the United Nations become successful in allocating funds for Pakistan from the developed world namely UK, USA, France, Germany and Saudi Arabia and from Asian Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank as well. As shown by the recent conference in Geneva, Pakistan become successful in raising funds upto 10 billion dollars to meet post-flood crisis. Thus, UN is assisting financially the needy and developing or climate-hit countries.

Among the many achievements, one of the major achievements of UN is the working of its bodies to fulfil the socio-economic issues of the nations at the grass-root levels. They help people of meager resources to sustain their lives and to attain social mobility. Taking the example

of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

It is working for the welfare of people to achieve glory in the fields of education, science and culture and helps them in attaining good socio-economic status in the society. On

the top of that, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is no exception. It supports people to attain their dietary needs without much hassle. FAO operates a number of wings in developing countries as well as in developed countries to feed malnourished people. Furthermore, its work in boosting agriculture sector of the countries is another successful project of the United Nations. Therefore, the working of UN bodies to meet the socio-economic issues of the nations is also one of its brilliant success as well as an achievement.

In the same way, strife for attaining women empowerment is one of another bright side of the United Nations. When probed, women empowerment has



become a talk of the town. United Nations has raised voice against the rights of women equally at par with their male counterparts. Subsequently, according to **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, if any country wants to flourish its economy it has to bring **50% of women workforce** in the market. Moreover, it helps that country to make place in the internal market. For this reason, United Nations is seemed to be successful in portraying the importance of women empowerment for the greater good.

On the other side of spectrum, the following paragraphs will light upon the failures of the United Nations worldwide.

When sifted carefully, the major failure of UN could be the unresolved issues of the world. The world is witnessing lagging issues since decades which may have taken almost a century. Amongst these issues, one of the major

issue is the **Kashmir Cause** which has been left unresolved since the partition of the subcontinent. Unfortunately, this issue has been limited to the resolutions and futile paper work. Correspondingly, **Palestinian issue is not an exception for the world now.** Since 1948, Palestinian Muslims are being facing atrocities. Israeli illegal settlements are getting pace since then. Conversely, no effective step has been taken yet for the relief of those Muslims. Hence, it shows that the United Nations has failed in tackling such long legging issues in the world which are keeping potentials to germinate several other challenges for the world.

Furthermore, unbridled nuclearization of the world is another failure of the United Nations. It is mainly due to the hegemonic status of some powerful states in the world. Such as America, Russia, India, China, France, UK and Israel. However, Pakistan is no exception in possessing nukes. The matter of fact is that such powerful countries



have become unbridled in expanding the nuclear weapons for their strategic interests. In such a scenario, an ineffectiveness of Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) can be a relevant example of the failure of UN across the world to maintain peace and harmony. Subsequently, the fiasco of Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) 1963 is another crystal clear manifestation of the failure of the United Nations in its implementation. In short, the uncontrolled nuclearization of the world is hence the failure of the United Nations.

Seen that way, the rapidly augmenting escalations between Russia and Ukraine divulge the canons towards the inefficiency of the United Nations. It seems to be that the UN has lost its strength and glory to maintain its status as a global watchdog. In such a scenario, Russia is becoming a global hegemon and striving to maintain its authoritative status across the world. In the light of this phenomenology, Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014.

It annexed Crimean Peninsula of Ukraine. Similarly, in various events of a chain, it launched full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Above all, the matter of concern is that the United Nations became unsuccessful in avoiding such sort of escalations. Resultantly, it shows a grim picture of the UN and seems to be an aged lion. Therefore, United Nations seems to be failed in mitigating such sort of invasions across the world.

Ascribed to its failures, augmenting refugee crisis is no exception. It has become a major looming threat to the world nations. It is due to its potential of germinating several other socio-economic issues in that particular state. In the contemporary world, there are a number of states fighting against the refugee crisis either that could be environmental refugees or state-abandoned people. Fast forward to Rohingya Muslim Refugee crisis, it is an enumerated example of the failure of



UN in tackling this crisis. Lamentably, people are suffering the most in the last few decades. However, their ruthless pains are ballooning by everyday. Meanwhile, the contemptuous grievances of the refugees are not yet ending herewith Rohingya Muslim. One such other major case is the Afghan Refugee crisis. It is owing to the American invasion after 9/11 in Afghanistan. Since then, Pakistan is sheltering around 40 million Afghan refugees. It has germinated tremendous challenges for Pakistan as well as for the refugees. Notably, the inefficiency of the United Nations in handling such sort of crisis is clearly poor.

In the like manner, the rise of fascist governments in the recent decade is also portraying a gruesome picture of the United Nations. The world is witnessing fascist regimes as it faced in the early 1900s. However, in the current world scenario, there are a number of countries using the tool of populism. The populist approach makes them able

to establish a fascist regime. The case in point is of the fascist Modi Regime in India. Since last few years, Modi-led government has shrunked the land for minorities, especially <sup>for</sup> Muslims, in India.

The ideology of RSS has originated a number of challenges for the minorities in India. However, such atrocities could be abstaining them from practicing their religious or cultural freedom. Saddest of all is that the **Citizenship Amendment**

**Act, 2019** violated the rights of minorities which they were given before, the right to citizenship. It erupted a chain of protests in Delhi in 2019, but the UN remained unfruitful for the cause of those minorities in India, which eventually led to another wave of refugee crisis in South Asia. Hence, UN, <sup>also,</sup> remained inefficient in handling <sup>the rise of</sup> fascist governments across the world.

Besides, UN usually moves its eyes away from draconian laws of the governments in the world. The laws which are mercil-



esly repressive and coercive in nature. The matter of fact is that they are being ignored by the United Nations due to political pressure of the global hegemons. In such a case, the laws of India like Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA) and sedition Act of India are the cases in point. These two laws are used to be considered as the draconian laws of Indian government upto now, as per The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Unfortunately, people become fallen prey to such sort of brutal laws and the watchdog like UN remains quite. Thus, it can be said that the UN has once again failed in removing such sort of draconian laws.

Seen that way, the previous paragraphs put light on the failures of the United Nations. Fortunately, this situation <sup>despite being serious</sup> is not beyond repair. The preceding paragraphs will be discussed about way forward to strengthen UN in order to get

maximum out of it.

The first and foremost way to strengthen the United Nations is to enhance its funding for its effective operations. It is only possible when each and every signatory of the UN should allocate a particular amount of share for the operations to be carried out properly. Moreover, this approach will enhance the importance and considerable status of every nation in the eyes of the United Nations. It will abridge the hegemonic status of the ~~the~~ biggest donors to UN. In this way, adequate share of every nation will improve the operations of the United Nations.

Thought that way, structural reformation of the United Nations has become a need of the hour. The criteria of UN has become almost futile to be carried out to meet the novel challenges of the



twenty-first century. The UN direly needs structural reformation especially in the domain of <sup>misusing</sup> veto power. The misuse of veto power by world hegemon is too common to be violated. The global powers like US, China and Russia observes the status of veto power, which is usually misused by them to get their strategic interests in other states to be fulfilled. For instance, China used to veto the sanctions on Russia many times. In this regard, the use of veto power should be redefined in order to protect the interests of other nations and avoiding its misuse. For this, the use of veto power should be limited for the permanent members of UN. Consequently, such sort of structural reforms will eventually assist UN to function properly.

When sifted carefully, there is another way to get maximum out of UN that is possible through the strict

implementation of the UN charter by the signatories. The nations are lacking in its true implementation due to which the essence of <sup>establishing</sup> UN is yet to be achieved. The true adherence to the UN charter can resolve many of the global issues like that of climate crisis, hyper-nationalism, proxy wars, pandemics and food insecurity. There is a dire need to establish a separate UN body which must adhere the signatories to the implementation of UN charter in true letter and spirit. In this way, it will ensure the proper functioning of the United Nations to stable peace and security across the globe.

In a nutshell, to a greater extent, United Nations is struggling hard to meet the evolving issues of the contemporary world by hook or crook. Nevertheless, a number of challenges indeed become stumbling blocks in its proper functioning like



that of hegemonic states, non-state actors, terrorism, authoritarian regimes and augmenting health crisis across the world. However, the mentioned remedial measures, if implemented in true sense, can pave the way to get rid of such numerous challenges and the proper functioning of the United Nations. Likewise, someone has rightly said that the examination of our past is never time wasting. Reverberations from the past provide learning rubrics for living today. All in all, it also depends on nations, they must not violate international law and abide by the UN charter as well as play effective role in maintaining global peace. Any further delay at the national and international level will miss a fast closing door to redeem a survivable future.